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Seoul Leader Says He Is Willing to Visit the North

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TOKYO, Tuesday, Oct. 4 — In another effort to defuse tensions with North Korea, President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea said today that he would be willing to travel to North Korea to meet with Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader.

In a speech scheduled for delivery today to South Korea's legislature, Mr. Roh said he accepted Mr. Kim's Sept. 8 invitation to Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. But Mr. Roh did not address any of the conditions for such a meeting, making it unclear whether it would actually come to pass.

Delegates from the North and South met for the first time in nearly three years for this August, but failed to reach any agreements. The two sides are scheduled to meet again at the border village of Panmunjom on Oct. 13.

Mr. Roh has made improving relations with the North a top priority, and he pledged in his speech that he would soon outline a new program for North-South relations that would include some of the North's proposals. While he offered no specific details, South Korean press reports have indicated that South Korean leaders have discussed with the United States the possibility of meetings with the North

that include China and the United States — one of the North's key requests.

Mr. Roh also said in his speech that he would study ways that students could organize exchanges with their North Korean counterparts. In June and again in August, the South Korean police blocked thousands of students who were trying to march north to the Demilitarized Zone to meet with North Korean students. Mr. Roh said he would also like to see students able to travel to China, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

After a Seoul Olympics that marked South Korea's first extended contact

with Communist nations since its battles with China during the Korean War, Mr. Roh pledged to continue pursuing ties with the Communist bloc. He said his Government would work to establish cultural exchanges, air routes, shipping lines and trade, including the lucrative development of Siberia.

The end of the Olympics also brings to a close an informal political truce that subordinated domestic conflicts to the smooth hosting of the Games. Although most South Koreans believe the threat of another coup far-fetched, many remain jittery about the future now that the Olympics, which served as a constraint on the military and the Government, have ended. Mr. Roh was among the military officers who seized power in December 1979 to form a Government few Koreans ever saw as legitimate.

But President Roh, elected last December in the nation's first free elections in 16 years, sought to allay these fears by pledging to continue moving toward democracy, saying the nation had already ended a "long, dark and dreadful night."

Seeks a Vote of Confidence
He said he would submit to a public judgment on how well he was keeping his promises to introduce democratic changes, although he did not say when or how he would do so. Such a national referendum or vote of confidence has been a sensitive political issue, although opposition leaders in recent weeks have all but dropped their demands for a referendum. They apparently fear that Mr. Roh would win enough support to slow the momentum gained when opposition parties won a

majority of votes in legislative elections this past April.
President Roh also pledged to cooperate with legislative committees investigating corruption and abuses of power during the previous Government — another crucial political issue ahead that will pit a Government that includes many holdovers from the past against a newly emboldened opposition.

At the same time, however, Mr. Roh served notice that the Government would crack down on what he called "revolutionaries" determined to overthrow democracy and capitalism.

"Activities to agitate for or incite a class revolution and other activities to overthrow the democratic order must be forcefully checked according to the law," Mr. Roh said.

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